

To: Bryan, David[Bryan.David@epa.gov]; Robichaud, Jeffery[Robichaud.Jeffery@epa.gov]
From: Sanders, LaTonya
Sent: Tue 10/14/2014 10:15:08 PM
Subject: RE: Daily Digest - 10/14/14

Yes, we have official congressional files that document communication/correspondence with Members of Congress.

From: Bryan, David
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 4:16 PM
To: Robichaud, Jeffery
Cc: Sanders, LaTonya
Subject: RE: Daily Digest - 10/14/14

Looping LaTonya into the conversation. She is the Congressional Liaison and should be able to answer this question.

David W. Bryan, APR

Press Officer/Public Affairs Specialist

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Environmental Protection Agency

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www.twitter.com/EPAregion7

www.scribd.com/eparegion7

From: Robichaud, Jeffery
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 4:14 PM
To: Bryan, David
Subject: RE: Daily Digest - 10/14/14

Dave I had a question...do we keep track of how many times a particular congressional has made an inquiry of us over the years?

Jeffery Robichaud

Deputy Director, Water Wetlands and Pesticides Division

United States Environmental Protection Agency

11201 Renner Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66219

913-551-7146

<http://blog.epa.gov/bigbluethread>

From: Bryan, David
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2014 3:35 PM
To: R7 Daily Digest INBOX
Subject: Daily Digest - 10/14/14

OPA Daily Digest for 10/14/14

Congressional Inquiries:

None

State Government Inquiries:

None

Sen. Gary Romine (Mo.) – letter – 10/1/14: Questioning high levels of lead in soil in southeastern Missouri. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Press Inquiries:

West Plains Quill (Mo.) – Denise Vaughn – 10/1/14: Questions regarding Coastal Energy. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Freelancer – Jack Suntrip – 10/8/14: Questions regarding Coastal Energy. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Joplin Globe – Allie Hinga – 10/14/14: Questions about recent EPA Region 7 inspection of the Granby, Mo., wastewater treatment facility for potential NPDES permit violations. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - State asks Bridgeton Landfill owners to do more to keep fire from spreading -
10/14/14 - The owners of the Bridgeton Landfill need to step up their efforts to keep an underground fire from reaching nuclear waste at the adjacent West Lake Landfill, according to a letter released Monday by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/state-asks-bridgeton-landfill-owners-to-do-more-to-keep/article_ebd4f86c-eb7a-596b-b7ad-4d4f7189cf14.html

People's World - Teamsters' teach-in spotlights environmental injustice at hazardous Missouri landfill -
10/9/14 - Corporate environmental injustice - in this case, Republic Service at its toxic waste landfill and Superfund site in Bridgeton, Missouri - led the discussion at an October 3 St. Louis teach-in on the dump, its future and responsibility for cleaning it up. <http://peoplesworld.org/teamsters-teach-in-spotlights-environmental-injustice-at-hazardous-missouri-landfill/>

Columbus Telegram (Neb.) - Brooks: Act deals only with waterways, not with land use - 10/12/14 - I want to

make sure you know the facts. The EPA intends to protect clean water without getting in the way of farming and ranching. Normal farming practices including planting, plowing, and harvesting have always been exempt from Clean Water Act regulations. Our proposal doesn't change that.

http://columbustelegram.com/news/opinion/columnists/brooks-act-deals-only-with-waterways-not-with-land-use/article_5c0e8275-e6ad-5082-a448-9da7612603ef.html

Kansas City Star - Letter of the week: Ensuring clean water - 10/12/14 - When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, it didn't just defend the Mississippi or Missouri rivers from pollution. It also protected smaller streams and wetlands. <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article2669089.html>

Brownfield Ag News - Congressman: EPA 'getting pushback' on WOTUS proposal – 10/9/14 - Missouri Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer says the EPA extended its comment period for their Waters of the U.S. rulemaking proposal because they're getting pushback. <http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/10/09/congressman-epa-getting-pushback-wotus-proposal/>

Iowa Public Radio - EPA Holds Meetings with Farmers to Quell Fears Over Water Rule (audio) - 10/13/14 - Proposed changes to the Clean Water Act have some Midwest farmers worried that, if enacted, they could be subject to additional regulation. Officials with the Environmental Protection Agency are trying to assuage those fears. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/epa-holds-meetings-farmers-quell-fears-over-water-rule>

Kansas City Kansan - Schmidt files objection to EPA's Proposed Rule on 'Waters of the U. S.' - 10/13/14 - Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced today that he has filed a formal objection to proposed new federal water regulations that could significantly extend the regulatory reach of the federal government onto Kansas private property. <http://www.kckansan.com/2014/10/schmidt-files-objection-to-epas.html>

Lake Expo (Mo.) - Ameren: EPA's 'Clean Power Plan' could cost Missouri customers billions - 10/10/14 - Ameren says reducing CO2 is a good goal, but says it is "gravely concerned" about the Environmental Protection Agency's "Clean Power Plan." The company argues that plan is legally flawed and unnecessarily costly, and could cost Ameren Missouri customers an extra \$4 billion for electricity. http://lakeexpo.com/news/lake_news/ameren-epa-s-clean-power-plan-could-cost-missouri-customers/article_6d652314-50b5-11e4-a215-43d8b5b28e3f.html

Ames Tribune (Iowa) - Council to decide on pipeline for power plant - 10/14/14 - At a special joint meeting of the Ames City Council and Electric Utility Operations Review and Advisory Board, the city of Ames will decide this evening whether to approve a multi-year contract with Alliant Energy to tap into a new pipeline and provide natural gas to the city's power plant after its conversion from burning coal. <http://amestrib.com/news/council-decide-pipeline-power-plant>

York News-Times (Neb.) - EPA looks at second contamination plume - 10/13/14 - Last week, officials with the

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided information to the public about the plume of contaminated groundwater that is located in the southeast portion of the city. They will be taking immediate steps to investigate its source in the downtown – but they are also continuing work on the second plume (in the northeast area of the city) being tackled as a Superfund priority project. http://www.yorknewstimes.com/news/epa-looks-at-second-contamination-plume/article_9d08cc72-535f-11e4-a093-ab8225df3035.html

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Dredging operation would be death knell for east side of Eureka - 10/14/14 - The Post-Dispatch's editorial page Sept. 27 comments from the EPA Region 7 administrator listed the reasons we must protect our rivers, creeks, streams and wetlands under the 1972 Clean Water Act. I agree totally. That is why I was shocked to learn that a Eureka company is proposing to dredge the Meramec River near Route 66 State Park in an area that includes nine wetland areas and seven streams. http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/mailbag/dredging-operation-would-be-death-knell-for-east-side-of/article_1ace0852-e545-5b71-96cb-7c5b8fd52b6d.html

St. Joseph News-Press (Mo.) - Corby Pond rain garden to help with waste water - 10/10/14 - The St. Joseph Public Works Department and the Loess Hills Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalists have banded together to create green infrastructure that treats the city's waste water and provides wildlife habitat near Corby Pond. http://www.newspressnow.com/sports/outdoors/article_fcc2ced3-fa92-5a28-8e85-209bfa4497d8.html

Topeka Capital-Journal - KSU severs ties to author of controversial prairie-burn research article - 10/11/14 - Konza Prairie researcher Gene Towne's final day at Kansas State University falls three months after public release of a research study suggesting ranchers could burn grassland outside the April time frame that served as university agronomy department gospel for decades. <http://cjonline.com/news/business/2014-10-11/ksu-severs-ties-author-controversial-prairie-burn-research-article>

Associated Press - Kansas State won't rehire professor who conducted controversial research on grassland burning - 10/13/14 - Kansas State University isn't renewing the contract for a professor who co-published a research article on grassland burning that questioned long-held university guidance to ranchers. <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/oct/13/kansas-state-wont-rehire-professor-who-conducted-c/>

The Gazette - Renewable fuel standard decision faces indefinite delay - 10/14/14 - An Environmental Protection Agency proposal to lower the required level of ethanol in petroleum-based fuels has stalled, leading to speculation that politics are in play as the midterm election looms. <http://thegazette.com/subject/news/business/agriculture/renewable-fuel-standard-decision-faces-indefinite-delay-20141012>

Quad-City Times - Brooks: EPA rule does not target ditches - 10/9/14 - The Clean Water Act only deals with the pollution and destruction of waterways – not land use. Also, the proposal does not regulate new types of ditches, does not apply to groundwater, and does not change the exemption for stock ponds. http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/editorial/epa-rule-does-not-target-ditches/article_b78d2f2c-1f97-578f-a802-17048c44a46d.html

Radio Iowa - Slow, steady rains wash away Iowa drought - 10/13/14 - The latest rains across Iowa continue to add to what is now a positive groundwater picture. Tim Hall, who tracks groundwater levels for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, says we can officially put the word drought away for awhile when referring to the state's water situation. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2014/10/13/slow-steady-rains-wash-away-iowa-drought/>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Project would turn landfill-bound waste into energy instead - 10/13/14 - Lincoln residents will throw away more than 52,000 tons of food waste this year, and most of it will end up buried in the Bluff Road Landfill. A consultant and the owner of a trash hauling company want to divert a fraction of that organic waste — about 1,450 tons annually — and use it as a renewable resource to produce electricity, compost and liquid fertilizer for use in lawn care and gardens, and possibly golf courses. http://journalstar.com/news/local/project-would-turn-landfill-bound-waste-into-energy-instead/article_9df4548e-7966-5d93-9751-3d1c40ac3e78.html

Omaha World-Herald - Lawsuit, petition target proposed 7,520-head hog operation in Burt County - 10/12/14 - A proposed hog confinement in northeast Nebraska is drawing the ire of nearby residents, sparking a petition in opposition to the project and a lawsuit. http://www.omaha.com/news/metro/lawsuit-petition-target-proposed--head-hog-operation-in-burt/article_5f2ba487-504b-5468-89f7-e7ccfbc647a.html

Norfolk Daily News (Neb.) - Neighbors object to proposed hog confinement in Burt County - 10/12/14 - A proposed hog confinement in northeast Nebraska is drawing the ire of nearby residents, sparking a petition in opposition to the project and a lawsuit. http://norfolkdailynews.com/news/neighbors-object-to-proposed-hog-confinement-in-burt-county/article_8c57ad56-5262-11e4-9677-001a4bcf6878.html

AG Professional - Biofuel mandate cuts would raise carbon pollution – lawmakers - 10/10/14 - The Obama administration's proposed cuts to U.S. biofuel use targets could undermine the White House's plan to tackle climate change, according to two Democrats on the Senate committee that oversees the renewable fuel mandate. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/Biofuel-mandate-cuts-would-raise-carbon-pollution--lawmakers-278821801.html>

St. Louis Review - Franciscan Sisters of Mary investments going to clean-energy firms - 10/8/14 - The Franciscan Sisters of Mary are divesting of companies that profit from fossil-fuel production and directing investments to projects and companies that increase energy independence and decrease greenhouse-gas emissions. <http://stlouisreview.com/article/2014-10-08/franciscan-sisters>

Kansas City Star - Letter of the week: Ensuring clean water - 10/12/14 - When Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972, it didn't just defend the Mississippi or Missouri rivers from pollution. It also protected smaller streams and wetlands. <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article2669089.html>

WHO-TV Ch. 13 Des Moines - Cover Crop Cost Share Extended - 10/14/14 - Farmers wanting to plant cover crops later in the season have an extension on a cost share program. Iowa Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, announced October 13, that farmers have until November 1 to get cover crops planted and still be able to get assistance. <http://whotv.com/2014/10/14/agribusiness-cover-crop-cost-share-extended/>

Des Moines Register - MidAmerican expands Iowa wind foothold - 10/11/14 - Iowa's reputation as a leader in wind energy production got another boost Friday when MidAmerican Energy announced plans to invest an additional \$280 million in the renewable energy. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/development/2014/10/10/midamerican-energy-terry-branstad-expansion/17027407/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier - Big costs coming as Waterloo tries to unhook foundation drains - 10/14/14 - The city took a first step Monday to make property owners disconnect foundation drains from the sanitary sewers. But some City Council members and several residents questioned whether the city was proposing enough to help homeowners with what could be costly plumbing bills. http://wfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/big-costs-coming-as-waterloo-tries-to-unhook-foundation-drains/article_eaadb905-0fe8-542d-9e17-feb6c4d4e03b.html

Joplin Globe - Spring River watershed plan to be unveiled during series of public meetings this week - 10/14/14 - A plan to improve water quality in the Spring River watershed will be unveiled at public meetings this week in Mount Vernon, Neosho, Lamar and Carthage. http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/article_fac2bfb0-5294-11e4-a098-33e1252a9df6.html

Lincoln Journal-Star - Cooper nuke plant has maintenance mishap during routine outage - 10/10/14 - A maintenance accident occurred near the reactor core of the Cooper Nuclear Station near Brownville during a routine outage about 7 p.m. Saturday, the Nebraska Public Power District said. http://journalstar.com/news/local/cooper-nuke-plant-has-maintenance-mishap-during-routine-outage/article_52c0e49a-315a-5dc2-a32b-fc3e61b94cb7.html

Utility Dive - Southwest Power Pool: EPA timeline for emissions cuts too short - 10/10/14 - A reliability impact assessment released by the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) indicates that generators in the Regional Transmission Organization may not have enough time to adapt to new EPA regulations. <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/spp-epa-timeline-for-emissions-cuts-too-short/319884/>

Utility Dive - Is battery storage the next solar? - 10/10/14 - As innovation moves the power and utilities industry, it creates opportunities for technologies that once operated on the fringe. The incredible growth in the solar industry is a good example, where falling technology costs and supporting policies have accelerated the adoption of utility-scale and rooftop solar. Could battery storage be next? <http://www.utilitydive.com/news/is-battery-storage-the-next-solar/316875/>

Politico - Joni Ernst, Bruce Braley clash over EPA in debate - 10/12/14 - Republican Joni Ernst defended her call to eliminate the Environmental Protection Agency during an Iowa Senate race debate here Saturday night, saying states should lead the way on ending pollution. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/10/joni-ernst-bruce-braley-clash-over-epa-in-debate-111810.html>

GreenTech - Streamlining Solar Interconnection - 10/13/14 - A new survey shows streamlining and automating interconnection processes can reduce solar installation costs. <http://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/how-can-utilities-integrate-solar-with-the-grid-at-a-faster-rate>

New York Times - The Candidate Who Wants More Pollution in Iowa - 10/13/14 - At a debate in Davenport on Saturday, Joni Ernst came under fire from her Democratic opponent, Representative Bruce Braley, for her plan to eliminate the nation's environmental guardian. <http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/13/the-candidate-who-wants-more-pollution-in-iowa/>

New York Magazine - Obama Environmental Plan Tainted by Association With Environmentalists - 10/13/14 - Republicans have attempted to seize upon a great many scandal allegations against the Obama administration, but the most surreal may be their accusation that the administration's climate agenda has been improperly influenced by environmentalists. <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/10/environmentalists-taint-obama-environment-plan.html>

New York Times - Republicans to Investigate Environmental Group's Influence on Carbon Rule - 10/10/14 - Congressional Republicans are investigating whether the Obama administration improperly colluded with a prominent environmental advocacy group, the Natural Resources Defense Council, as the Environmental Protection Agency drafted major climate change regulations. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/11/us/republicans-to-investigate-environmental-groups-influence-on-carbon-rule.html>

Land Line Magazine - EPA takes notes on OOIDA concerns - 10/13/14 - At the OOIDA Board of Directors meeting last week at Association headquarters, two government reps from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency got an earful from small-business truckers. The EPA guests who were scribbling notes to take back to D.C. were Bill Charmley and Matt Spears of the EPA Office of Transportation and Air Quality. <http://www.landlinemag.com/Story.aspx?StoryID=27816#.VD1wRPldVcA>

Center for Progressive Reform (blog) - A Mass-Based Cap for Power Plants - 10/13/14 - Climate disruption is an urgent problem. It is important in this context not to undo a major advance that has occurred in the world of climate regulation—the use of mass-based caps. <http://www.progressivereform.org/CPRBlog.cfm?idBlog=0B546490-BB93-250F-E248E13707C840D8>

Environmental Leader - Are Companies Still Committed to Sustainability? - 10/14/14 - Many companies are committed to policies to ensure environmental, social and governance sustainability — but a growing minority remain skeptical about their benefits, according to a report from the Economist Intelligence Unit.
<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2014/10/14/are-companies-still-committed-to-sustainability/>

Climate Central - Scientists: EPA Underestimating Renewables Potential - 10/14/14 - Generating electricity in the U.S. can be a lot greener and more climate-friendly than the Obama administration expects it to be through 2030, researchers at the Union of Concerned Scientists said in an analysis released Tuesday.
<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/scientists-epa-underestimating-u.s.-renewables-potential-18176>

The Hill - EPA readies major ozone rule change - 10/13/14 - The Obama administration is preparing to unveil an air pollution rule shortly after the midterm elections that could be among the most costly and controversial in history. <http://thehill.com/regulation/energy-environment/220471-epa-readies-major-ozone-change>

Fox News - Emails show ‘cozy’ ties between EPA, environmental group over power-plant rules, senator says - 10/14/14 - Newly released emails detail what Republicans say are "cozy" ties between the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and a top environmental advocacy group, raising questions about the group's influence -- and participation -- in the Obama administration's so-called "War on Coal."
<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/10/14/emails-show-cozy-ties-between-epa-environmental-group-over-power-plant-rules/>

New York Times - Pentagon Signals Security Risks of Climate Change - 10/14/14 - The Pentagon on Monday released a report asserting decisively that climate change poses an immediate threat to national security, with increased risks from terrorism, infectious disease, global poverty and food shortages.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/14/us/pentagon-says-global-warming-presents-immediate-security-threat.html>

Associated Press - Paul Ryan skeptical on climate change - 10/14/14 - The planet has faced climate change forever and humans' pollution might not be to blame, Republican U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan said Monday during a debate against his Democratic challenger. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/10/paul-ryan-skeptical-on-climate-change-111847.html>

PRI - The 'green conservative' movement has some big players — and an uphill battle ahead - 10/14/14 - Carl Lindemann, who writes for the Texas Observer, explains it this way: “Clean energy conservatives are looking to break some Republican taboos for the cause of free markets and national security.” <http://www.pri.org/stories/2014-10-11/green-conservative-movement-has-some-big-players-and-uphill-battle-ahead>

Entrepreneur - Introducing the Power Users of Social Media You Want to Reach - 10/14/14 - Vanessa DiMauro, CEO of Leader Networks, shared the results of a study she conducted with Don Bulmer showing that marketers would be wise to think about their audience not so much by generation but rather by gender. <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/237886>

Inside Climate - Shift to Low-Carbon Economy Could Free Up \$1.8 Trillion, Study Says - 10/9/14 - A pair of new studies are part of a growing international effort to assess the costs and benefits of moving on from burning fossil fuels to clean energy. <http://insideclimatenews.org/carbon-copy/20141009/shift-low-carbon-economy-could-free-18-trillion-study-says>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

*New additions noted with an asterisk

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***10/15/14** – Federal Executive Board Meeting, Kansas City. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

10/21-22/14 – EPA LEAN Summit, Washington, D.C. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

11/4/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

***11/5/14** – Attend the Pollinator Protection Brownbag, Regional Office. Contact: Catherine Wooster-Brown, 7425

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

***11/12/14** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

***11/13/14** – National Association of Farm Broadcasters Trade Talk Show, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

11/18/14 – Region 7 Small Business Environmental Assistance Providers, Regional Office. Contact: Gary Bertram, 7533

***11/19/14** – Omaha CSO Program Tour, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Karen Flourney, 7782

***12/2-3/14** – Attend the Four State Director’s Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

***12/15/14** – Joint R7 & R8 Meeting, Denver, Colo. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

DRA:

***10/27-28/14** – Attend the RCRA Director’s Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

***10/29/14** – Attend the OUST Director’s Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

11/4/14 – COOP Exercise, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

***11/5/14** – Attend the Pollinator Protection Brownbag, Regional Office. Contact: Catherine Wooster-Brown, 7425

11/12/14 – Native American Heritage Event Discussion on “Climate Change and Adaptation in Indian Country, Regional Office. Contact: Alex Owutaka, 7584

***11/18/14** – Attend the Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

***12/2-3/14** – Attend the Four State Director’s Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

10/19-22/14 – Senior Enforcement Managers Meeting, Washington, D.C., Contact: D. Singletary, x7373

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

10/14/14 – Attend West Lake Landfill CAG meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

10/22/14 – Public Availability Session to discuss remedial action and the Five Year Review for the Parkview Well Site, Grand Island, Neb. Contact: Brad Vann, 7611

WWPD

10/15-16/14 – Big River Task Force Meeting with Other State and Federal Agencies, Farmington, Mo. Contact: Jeannette Schafer, 7297

10/20-21/14 – Hypoxia Task Force Meeting, Alton, Ill. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/20-25/14 – EPA Grants Reporting and Tracking System Training, Seattle, Wash. Contact: Theresa Brink, 7337

10/22/14 – St. Louis Regional Chamber and Metro Water Infrastructure Partnership water infrastructure seminar, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

10/22/14 – Operation Breakthrough-St. Vincent's Head Start outreach event, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Crystal McIntyre, 7261

10/29-30/14 – National EPA Wet Weather Meeting, Chicago, Ill. Contacts: Jodi Bruno, 7810, Cynthia Sans, 7492

11/4-7/14 – National EPA Drinking Water Enforcement Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131

11/3-6/14 – EPA Tribal 106 Coordinators Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

11/11-12/14 – Council of Infrastructure Finance Authorities National SRF Workshop, Portland, Ore. Contacts: Glenn Curtis, 7726, Sabre Germano, 7026

11/12-14/14 – EPA Assessment TMDL Tracking and Implementation System vision measures training, Washington, DC. Contacts: Tabatha Adkins, 7128, Debby White, 7886

Des Moines Register

MidAmerican expands Iowa wind foothold

10/11/14

Iowa's reputation as a leader in wind energy production got another boost Friday when MidAmerican Energy announced plans to invest an additional \$280 million in the renewable energy.

The Des Moines-based utility will add 67 wind turbines at two western Iowa locations.

Most of the turbines, 64 of them, will go to a new wind farm in Adams County in southwest Iowa. The other three will expand an existing O'Brien County wind farm in northwest Iowa.

The turbines have the potential to generate 162 megawatts of energy, enough to power 48,000 homes, company officials said.

Iowa is one of the leading states in the production of wind energy.

More than 27 percent of the state's energy comes from wind, the highest state percentage in the nation, according to a 2014 report by the American Wind Energy Association.

Iowa also has the seventh-best wind resource, or potential for wind energy generation, in the U.S.

William Fehrman, president and CEO of MidAmerican, said the company is continuing to invest in wind projects because they are a good way to reduce costs for customers and bring the state closer to meeting goals for reducing carbon emissions.

Wind generation "... continues the drive to reduce our overall carbon footprint and better position ourselves and our customers and our state to the changing regulatory environment," he said.

Last year MidAmerican began construction on \$1.9 billion worth of turbines in five Iowa counties.

That project will add 450 turbines in Grundy, Madison, Marshall, O'Brien and Webster counties, and create 1,050 megawatts of energy, or enough to power 317,000 homes, according to the company.

Combined with the expansion announced Friday, Fehrman said the O'Brien County wind farm would be the largest in the state of Iowa and produce 502 megawatts of energy.

MidAmerican will contract with Siemens, a German-based engineering and electronics company, to build the blades and other components of the wind turbines. Siemens has a manufacturing plant in Fort Madison.

The Iowa Utilities Board still has to give regulatory approval for the \$280 million project. Fehrman said his company would file its paperwork with the board Friday.

The utility is not asking for financial assistance from local or state officials, but MidAmerican will pursue federal tax credits offered for wind energy projects, Fehrman said.

If approved, MidAmerican said construction would start at the two sites next summer and be complete by the end of the year.

The two projects would create about 200 construction jobs, and once complete, MidAmerican said the sites would require at least 10 permanent positions.

The company made the announcement during a news conference with Gov. Terry Branstad and Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds.

Branstad said the project is "the latest evidence of MidAmerican Energy's longstanding and ongoing commitment to renewable energy." He also said this and other wind projects help the state attract companies such as Microsoft and Google.

"Major companies from across the country and around the world are looking at Iowa as a place to locate facilities due to our commitment to providing sustainable, affordable energy solutions," Branstad said.

Earlier this year, MidAmerican signed an agreement with Google to provide 407 megawatts of wind-sourced energy for Google's Council Bluffs data center.

When its construction projects are complete, MidAmerican will have 21 wind-energy locations in the state.

Altogether, Fehrman said the company has invested about \$6 billion in Iowa wind energy.

MidAmerican's wind projects

Once MidAmerican Energy's most recent projects are complete, here's how the utility's investment in wind will stack up:

- 21 wind projects across 22 counties.
- \$6 billion invested.
- 3,500 megawatt production capacity.
- More than 1 million homes that could be powered.

Source: MidAmerican Energy

Energy generated in Iowa

Iowans get their energy from a number of sources. This was the breakdown from a 2012 Iowa Utilities Board report:

- 62.3 percent coal.
- 24.8 percent wind.
- 7.7 percent nuclear.
- 3.4 percent natural gas.
- 1.4 percent hydropower.
- Less than 1 percent other renewables and petroleum.

IOWA'S LARGEST PROJECTS

When Lee County first snagged the Iowa Fertilizer Co., the project was estimated to cost \$1.4 billion. That initial estimate was bumped up to \$1.8 billion, making the plant Iowa's largest economic development investment in state history at the time. The Iowa Fertilizer Co. took that title from a similar project on the other side of the state, a \$1.7 billion expansion of CF Industries fertilizer plant in Port Neal. Since then, however, Iowa Fertilizer has lost its title to a MidAmerican Energy project, which has the utility company building \$1.9 billion worth of wind turbines in the state. For comparison, here are Iowa's largest projects by cost:

